(b) if so, whether these techniques are adequate to find the origin of smuggled animal parts, develop intelligence networks, track traders and also to use automatic weapons in the war against rampant poaching;

(c) the reasons for which the incidents of poaching are increasing; and

(d) the percentage of conviction relating to poachers arrested during 2005, 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry to control effectively the poaching of wildlife. One of the latest initiative is setting up of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with the mandate of collection and collation of intelligence related to organized wildlife crime, coordination with State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, developing infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes. Financial assistance to State/UTs Governments is also provided under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Ministry for conservation of wildlife. A special Tiger Protection Force has also been set up to control the poaching of tiger.

So far as technique to find origin of smuggled animal part is concerned, it is at research and development stage for tiger.

(c) Main reason of poaching of wild animals is thriving international market outside India especially with respect to tiger, leopard and rhino products. It is further aggravated due to man-animal conflict.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid in the Table of the House.

River cleaning programme

906. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating a plan for river cleaning programme;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented and at what cost;

(c) which rivers are expected to be cleaned in the process, State-wise;

(d) whether it would be a time-bound programme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is being implemented by the Central Government jointly with the State Governments on a cost-sharing basis. The pollution abatement works under NRCP presently cover identified polluted stretches of 37 major rivers in 166 towns spread over 20 States in the country. The State-wise details

of rivers covered are given in the statement (*See* below). The sanctioned cost of the projects under NRCP is Rs. 4391.83 crore, against which an expenditure of Rs.3868.49 crore has been incurred so far. A provision of Rs.2100 crores has been made in the XI Plan for the National River Conservation Plan.

(d) and (e) Conservation of rivers has to be a continuous process, given the increasing pollution load due to urbanization and industrialisation. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in creating the required infrastructure for sewage management and disposal, under the NRCP. River conservation activities are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

Statement

State-wise details of rivers covered under the National River Conservation Plan

S.No.	State	River
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari & Musi
2	Bihar	Ganga
3	Delhi	Yamuna
4	Goa	Mandovi
5	Gujarat	Sabarmati
6	Haryana	Yamuna
7	Jharkhand	Damodar, Ganga & Subarnarekha
8	Karnataka	Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Tunga & Pennar
9	Kerala	Pamba
10	Madhya Pradesh	Betwa, Tapti, Wainganga, Khan, Narmada, Kshipra, Beehar, Chambal & Mandakini.
11	Maharashtra	Krishna, Godavari & Tapi
12	Nagaland	Diphu & Dhansiri
13	Orissa	Brahmini & Mahanadi
14	Punjab	Satluj
15	Rajasthan	Chambal
16	Sikkim	Rani Chu
17	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vennar, Vaigai & Tambarani

1	2	3
18	Uttar Pradesh	Yamuna, Ganga & Gomti
19	Uttranchal	Ganga
20	West Bengal	Ganga, Damodar & Mahananda

Clearance to Infrastructural Projects

907. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide speedy clearance atleast the infrastructural projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Environmental Impact assessment Notification of September 2006 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for the appraisal and conveying the decision. No infrastructure projects are pending beyond this time limit.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to paras (a) and (b) above.

Protection of wild life

908. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of important mammal species of wild life in the Reserve Forests and the numerous threats faced by wild life, with particular reference to Lions, Tigers and Elephants;

(b) what are the various measures undertaken or being undertaken to protect wild life in our country, with special reference to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether they are adequate and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The important mammalian species found in the Reserve Forests are lion, tiger, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, bison, wild buffalo, sambhar, blackbuck, chinkara, bear, lion tail macaque etc. Major threats to wildlife are poaching, habitat loss and destruction, encroachment, man-animal conflict etc.

(b) and (c) A number of effective steps have been taken by the Government for conservation of Wildlife in the country including Tamil Nadu which are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.